DEC 2023

ISSUE 6

EXPLORER

for lovers of Art and Nature!

IN THIS ISSUE

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Edited by: Sumayyah

Labanieh

Newsletter Intern

Art and Wilderness
Institute
is a community
centered
Institute
focused on getting
the community
re-connected
with Nature.

We are based in Southern CA and believe that by Exploring, Creating, and Connecting, we grow as people and as community.

All of our programs aim at incorporating service-learning in order to give back to our local communities and the world.

To learn more





HSMENTORSHIP'S TRIP TO THE KELSO SAND DUNES: PAGE 3

AWI Newsletter Winter 2023



Look deep into mature, and then you will understand everything better.

Albert Einstein

Creature Feature!



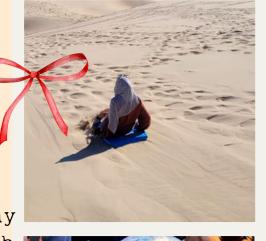
The barn owl is an amazing hunter that uses silent flight and night vision and on top of that it has the most sensitive ears of the animal kingdom, enough to hear a mouse living underneath the snow. To feed its young it tears apart its food to give to the 6 or so mouths. Before the food goes into digestion, the content is sorted into two stomachs, one for the meat and one for the fur and bones. The fur and bones come out of the mouth as owl pellets and as for the meat, it comes out the bottom end.

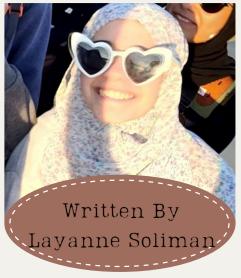


Kelso Sand Dunes

A few weeks ago, the high school Mentorship class went to the Kelso Sand Dunes. We met at the Corona Masjid at 5 AM, it was not fun. I wore my iconic heart sunglasses. We were blessed by the company of Ustadh Hassan, who taught us many beneficial lessons. After praying Fajr, we split into four cars and started our journey.

Sr. Sama assigned our seats, I don't know about everyone else, but I didn't mind much, I enjoyed my car ride—I enjoyed the girlies' company (I was with Fathia, Safiyah, Maryam, Mariam, and Hannah). We stopped at a coffee shop (Six Beans, I got their Christmas Cookie Latte) after about an hour of driving. The coffee was mid, it wasn't the best coffee I've had though. We also stopped at a cool gas station with some really cute (and really expensive) beanies. After the gas station, we weren't going to make any stops but we got stopped by some stupid train for, like, 20–30 minutes. Ust. Hassan gave a talk about a squirrel and right after that, the train moved! We got back into the cars and finally got to





the sand dunes; we had to make sure our bags weren't too heavy 'cause ther the hike would be even more miserable than it was (I brought 4 water bottles). We were told it would be super cold, but it was not when we first started hiking. I was actually dying. The hike was pretty easy at first but then we got to this huge sand hill. I was looking up at it and was actually gonna faint, like gurl—no way I'm hiking up this whole thing.



Kelso Sand Dunes (cont.)

The hike up was actually awful, I felt miserable and my hijab even fell off at one point (but we don't talk about that). We had to make sure to stay hydrated or we could've died of heat exhaustion. I even stopped at one point and recited Quran and it was the most magical feeling, and Subhan'Allah



made me feel much better. Once we got to the top tho>>> It was amazing and definitely worth it. It felt like such an achievement to get up there, and just standing and looking at the sand dunes was an indescribable feeling. Eventually, we all got up there and got to just chill. Some people rolled down the hills, some people sat and talked, and some people boogie boarded down the hill.

We stayed at the top for a few hours until the sun was about to start setting. Before we left we prayed Duhr & Asr; standing on the hill above them and seeing them pray was so amazing. It gave arab-movie-core.

Thehnn, we wrote speeches about hardships, and what they mean to us. Fathia, Aiza, Safiyyah, Ali, Ak, and Taufeeq gave the speeches. I'm super glad I didn't have to do the speech, I was planning on fake-fainting if I got called to do it, but I didn't Alhamdulillah. Then we headed down, it was way easier (and funner) than the way up--one kid even boodie boarded down the whole thing. Hannah was the first one back to the parking lot, she was like way ahead of anyone and then some other people were super slow and took forever. After we finally all got back we prayed Maghreb & Isha we set up a bunch of snacks we all brought and had a feast. I was too tired to eat, which totally sucked. We also told super scary stories that I still think about (thank you guys, they've scarred me). Then we started on the way back; I was in the car with Sumayyah, Maimoona, Aleena, and Aiza this time. We talked about what kind of bread we'd be (we agreed I'd be hamburger buns {with sesame seeds}). We stopped at a Panera, which was really random, but that's okur, 'cause I love Panera.

Kelso Sand Dunes (cont.)

Me and my bestie were going to share a Mac n' Cheese but we had to leave before we were able to which was really disappointing (Panera Mac n' Cheese is on top). After Miss. Sumayyah made dua for traffic (EDITOR'S NOTE: hehe sorry but I was really enjoying my car ride okay! And I was joking, I didn't think it would actually happen.), there traffic appeared, but eventually, we did get to the Masjid (around 10:30). I had a lot of fun, and would totally do that hike again (in like 5 months though). I feel like I learned a lot and just being in nature was amazing. The whole thing was totally a vibe. Thank you, Sr. Sama and all the other adults who went with us for agreeing to spend the day with a bunch of annoying teenagers <3

-Layanne



Students in the Field

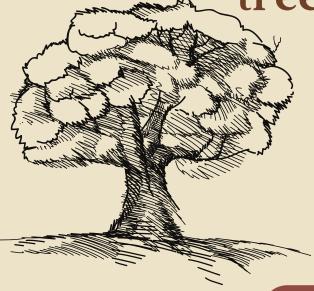




CLICK HERE

Learn about sycamore





Stands Brings

Enerald Owl Warm Elixer

-1/2 hot milk, 1/2 milk

-Cocoa powder

-ATINY bit of cayanne pepper

Servewithwhippedcream

and teal or purple

sprinkles





Minter

Wandering snowflakes sparkle and fall,
Ice coats the ground, like a glistening shawl.
Nights are long, days become short,
Trees stand lonesome, their leaves lost to the chilly breeze
Eager children giggle in the snow as they play,
Reveling in each snowy day.

-Anonymous

If you want to submit a poem for a chance to be featured in the Poet's Corner, email awinewsletter.editor@gmail.com

In the long-loved land of Palestine

In the long-loved land of Palestine
There's no more laughter or sunshine
Dust and glass choke throats and breath
The sun is blocked by planes raining death

The masjid Al-Aqsa is sacred to us
But it's being treated like forgotten dust
Still, remember, more sacred are the lives
Lost by the thousands as the world connives

As America funds a mass-genocide
But now we are finally changing the tide
We may be separated by the sea
But we are together, for our minds are free

Unshackled by the chains of malice and spite

The stars are brighter the darker the night

If the Ummah is one body, Palestine is our heart

And Israel can only try to rip it apart

Polestine (cont.)



So what if the quote-unquote superpowers are on the wrong side?

Allah is with Palestine, and He will always provide!
Israel cuts off water, but Allah controls the skies
Everyone has seen the treachery, the lies

Israel is digging its own grave deep
In this life they laugh--in the next they will weep
Seventy five years haven't gone unchecked
Hey, oppressors, you'd better stop and reflect

You only fool yourself with your propaganda and tricks
Your words are no heavier than feathers and sticks
You've lost all your honor, your respect and your rights
You've blackened your hearts with your hatred and
spite

Palestine (cont.)



You've given us blindfolds, we've refused to wear them as you do

For Palestine is the side that is true
No matter what, they will achieve victory
They'll be celebrated in history

The martyred Palestinians felt no pain
Israel only loses and they only gain
If we all stand together no force can resist
The power of truth when we insist

So my brothers and sisters, say this last part with me
From the river to the sea:
Palestine will be free!

If you want to submit a poem for a chance to be featured in the Poet's Corner, email awinewsletter.editor@gmail.com









The Green Masjid **Initiative** aims to support our masajid transition towards more sustainable and responsible practices in accordance with the **Quran and** Sunnah.

We have been endorsed by the **Islamic Shura Council of** Southern California.

Visit our Website



Terracycle and Colgate partnered up to create a national recycling program for all brands of USED AND EMPTY ORAL CARE PRODUCTS.

You can help reduce plastic pollution in our ocean by recycling used toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes, floss containers, floss picks, and packaging.

Note: Electric or battery-operated toothbrushes or products are not accepted. Please remove as much product as possible like leftover toothpaste in tubes.

Also available: Collection bin for any flexible plastic food packaging.

(Please contact 315-871-9891 with questions or for other drop off options)



Any flexible food packaging like empty chip bags or snack packages.



old toothbrushes*



empty toothpaste tubes



floss picks and floss dispensers

HOUSE SCOREBOARD

Emerald Owl is in the Lead



Did you know?

You have to fill out the form to earn points for volunteer days, leading hikes, and other things.

The points won't get added unless you fill out the form!

Only actions worth 5 or more get displayed on the house scoreboard even though the points will be added.

Get House Points

Learn more about how the houses earned these points

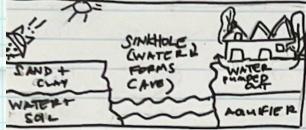
CLICK HERE







BUILDUP OF WATE UNDER THE ASPHAULT WHICH OVERTIME CHASES FRASION





MUDSLIDES AND THE SETTLING OF THE GROUND SHIFTING IS A
DANGETOUS HAZARD A

DON'T GET

VERAL STI!

BE CARE FUL OF THE SINKHOLES!

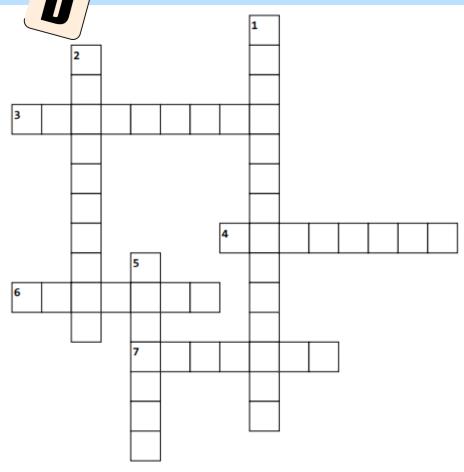


ART AND WILD FRNESS INSTITUTE (AWI)

SUMMER KYRDI 2023

ROSS R

CORNER







- 3. long green wiry reeds that grow on rocks
- 4. This is a predator of shrimp, fish and octopus
- 6. A short slugish invertebrate
- 7. A quick, small fish smiler to a goby

Down

- **1.** An incredibly intelligent three hearted mollusk named for its two spots
- 2. A creature that uses empty snail shells for protection
- **5.** known for being shaped like a star with webbing between the arms

https://crosswordlabs.com/vi ew/crossword-corner-tidepool-editionheading

click link to play!

INTERVIEWS WITH AALIYAH R.

INTERVIEWING SUMAYYAH LABANIEH, OUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

What is your favorite trail and why?

What is your favorite OC park?

Have you been to any National Parks?

What is your favorite national park?

What do you do for art and wilderness institute?

The Mariposa trail in Yosemite, because of how green and pretty it is.

Carbon Canyon.

Many such as...
King's Canyon, Arches,
Rocky Mountain...

Sequoia National Park

Newsletter Editor



INTERVIEWING SUMAYYAH LABANIEH, OUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR (CONTINUED

What is your hobby or hobbies?

What do you do in your free time?

What is your favorite book?

What is your favorite house and why?

If you had a superpower what would it be and why?



journaling, reading writing

Writing, mostly

Heaven to Betsy

Fox Fangs, because they are the best (and because I am in that house.)

Time traveling, because it would be useful for procrastination.









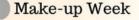


Holidays



Summer Camp

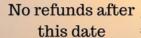






Drop Date 75%

Drop Date 50%



APRIL

JANUARY

Theme: High Ambition

Theme: Gratitude

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FEBRUARY

Theme: Patience

MARCH

Theme: Humility

MAY

Theme: Compassion

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JUNE

Theme: Celebration

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Theme: Resilience

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AUGUST

heme: Reflection

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SEPTEMBER

Theme: Purpose/Intention

28

OVERNIGHT

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

31

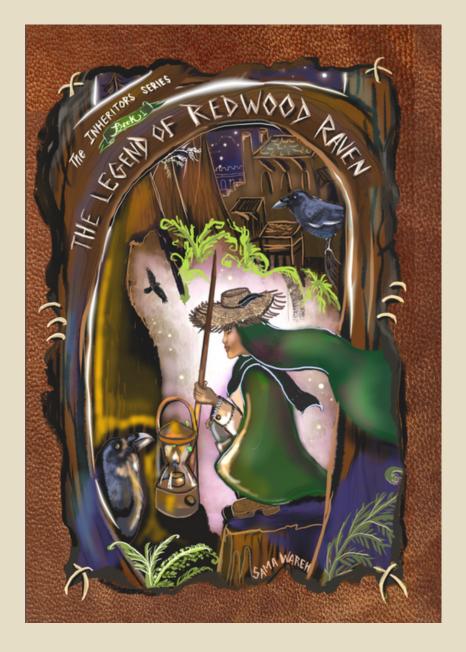








BOOK RELEASE



Redwood Raven has no ordinary childhood. Her parents left when she was but a child and left her with a mysterious raven to watch after her. Growing up on her own in the sentinels of the Redwoods during the industrial revolution, her world is turned upside down one day when a logger tears down her home and all she holds dear. As forest after forest is brought down, her plan for revenge turns into a beautiful unexpected journey.

Meet the four characters behind our Art and Wilderness Institute houses as Redwood Raven takes you on an epic fictional adventure based on the non-fictional natural history of California as well as the history of the industrial revolution.

Purchase Book

Brace yourself for magical characters, heartbreak, hope, and resilience in this 280 page novel.





SHHHHH DONT TELL NO BODY

BUT THE TRADING CARD WINNERS ARE NOW ON THE WEBSITE



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NNOUNCING

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ANNOUNCING



Want to contribute to the Newsletter? Email

sumayyah.labanieh@gmail.com

TO JOIN THE TEAM

Call for:

Poetry,

Articles,

Comics,

Nature Journaling Pages,

Cool stories about your AWI

classes, teachers,

and more!